

Outdoor Shorts

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BEST PROGRAM: The Pennsylvania National Guard's environmental program was recognized as the best in the nation in 2003.

The office, based at Fort **Indiantown** Gap in Lebanon County, was awarded the National Stewardship Award by the Army National Guard leadership in Washington D.C. "Your program clearly identified itself above the others across the nation," said Eric Anderson, conservation branch chief in the National Guard Bureau. "You excel in support of the training mission and in maintaining a high stewardship ethic."

The Gap's environmental staff is comprised of 14 members and has a \$7.5 million budget.

"We handle the gamut of issues, from environmental compliance to environmental stewardship," said Carl Magagna, environmental program manager. "While our main focus is Fort **Indiantown** Gap, we handle environmental issues at more than 100 different locations across the commonwealth where we have facilities and air bases."

The award was based on three major program areas: conservation, compliance and resources. The Pennsylvania Army National Guard environmental office was the only state to achieve 80 percent or greater in each program area, according to the bureau. Pennsylvania Guard environmentalists received an overall score of 91 percent; the nationwide average was 74 percent.